



#6/B
1/10/02
PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
E. Ellis et al.) Art Unit 1764
Serial No. 09/553,107) Before the Examiner
Filed: April 20, 2000) J. Johnson

PRODUCTION OF LOW SULFUR DISTILLATES

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

RECEIVED
JAN 14 2002
TC 1700

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

This is in response to the First Office Action (Paper No. 5) dated July 17, 2001. Please enter the following amendment and remarks. A marked up version showing the changes made is attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8 and 17.

Please replace claims 1, 5 and 16 with the following amended claims 1, 5 and 16.

1. A multi stage process for reducing the level of sulfur and in a distillate feedstock having a sulfur content greater than about 3,000 wppm, which process comprises:

- a) reacting said feedstream in a first hydrodesulfurization stage in the presence of a hydrogen-containing treat gas, a portion of which is cascaded from the second hydrodesulfurization stage of d) below, said first hydrotreating stage containing one or more reaction zones, each reaction zone operated at hydrodesulfurizing condition and in